

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, MN

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

Guidelines Summary Version II
for

Effective July 1, 2021

Updated July 30, 2021

July 30, 2021, Update

Masks recommended for all persons during in-person worship

On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released updated recommendations on mask usage given the current COVID Delta variant circulating in the United States. In areas with substantial and high transmission, the CDC recommends fully vaccinated people wear masks in public indoor settings to help prevent the spread of the Delta variant.

Today, Ramsey County reached the substantial transmission level based on the number of cases. The CDC guidance recommending masks therefore now applies to indoor public gatherings in Ramsey County.

Following that guidance, we updated our July 1 guidelines (below). **We recommend all persons, including those who are fully vaccinated, wear masks at our Sunday morning in-person worship services.** If anyone in your household, doesn't feel well or has been exposed to COVID, please choose to stay home.

Gloria Dei's COVID Safety Task Force will meet again in early August to review and discuss our church's COVID safety requirements.

Gloria Dei COVID Safety Requirements Lift as of July 1, 2021

After careful consideration, our COVID Safety Task Force recommended that Gloria Dei discontinue all COVID safety requirements at the church building. The church council voted to remove all COVID restrictions at Gloria Dei beginning July 1, 2021.

Science and data show that vaccines are effective and readily available for most of the population, and most of the wider community is open, Gloria Dei leaders are confident we can safely return to the building. Gloria Dei has installed an ionizer in the air handling system to scrub the air of virus and pathogens and fully refresh the air in the building every 45 minutes.

Families at Gloria Dei face larger challenges because young children cannot be vaccinated yet. Our prayers remain with those who are struggling with difficult decisions about returning to typical activities, with many making the choice to continue to isolate in smaller groups.

For those who are able to get the COVID vaccination, we encourage you to do so if you haven't yet been vaccinated. We also encourage anyone who is not vaccinated to wear a mask and keep appropriate distance. When we return to the building with no mask or distance requirements, we ask everyone to pay attention to those who still wear masks and keep distance and respect their boundaries. We can continue our mission to care and heal by respecting all choices.

Developed by:

Gloria Dei COVID-19 Safety Task Force

Chair: Cathy Sedacca, Congregation Council President

Phase 4: Full Operations with No or Minimal COVID-19 Restrictions (beginning July 1, 2021)

External Conditions:

There are no or minimal state restrictions. Vaccine available. Widespread testing and identification of new COVID-19 cases, with quarantining is occurring.

Criteria:

No or minimal state restrictions.

Guiding Principles

- Love of neighbor.
- Care of “the least.”
- Welcome of all, vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- Awareness and respect of boundaries of those who still wear masks and maintain distance.
- Special concern for families with children.

Church Activities

Sunday Worship

- No restrictions.

Life Celebrations (weddings, funerals, baptisms; events that take place in the sanctuary)

- No restrictions.

Private Ceremonies in Sanctuary or Chapel

- No restrictions.

Use of Public Spaces in Building (hallways, sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Gallery)

- No restrictions.

Use of Smaller Space in Building (offices, classrooms, meeting rooms, gym)

- No restrictions.

Outdoor Gatherings on Church Property

- No restrictions.

To schedule baptisms, contact office@gloriadeistpaul.org.

To schedule weddings, contact Beverly@gloriadeistpaul.org.

To schedule other building use or outdoor gatherings (e.g., Fellowship Hall, classrooms, gym, Sanctuary, chapel) for and by Gloria Dei programs and members, contact calendar@gloriadeistpaul.org.

Submit others requests to use the building or outdoor unrelated to Gloria Dei programs and members, contact Beverly@gloriadeistpaul.org.